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PEQUOT

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TRAILS



Published Quarterly by the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Incorporated
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary

INCORPORATED
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

CURATOR
ROBERT F. KUNZ

A CONSERVATION PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AND RECREATION FOR
CHILDREN AND ADULTS

WHAT IS THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY?

The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Connecticut for the purpose of promoting a community program of conservation education. The program includes work for the preservation and restoration of our natural resources.

It is a unique community enterprise in that it is supported entirely by interested citizens through memberships and contributions.

THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:

Maintains 218 acres of land for the purpose of teaching others the ways and values of protection and restoration of our birds, wildlife and other natural resources.

Maintains a trailside museum and a series of nature trails which tell the story of nature in a most instructive and fascinating manner.

In cooperation with the schools, girl scouts, boy scouts, community centers and other youth organizations, promotes a program of conservation education for children.

Conducts a year around program of field trips and activities for members.

Through personal guidance of the Curator, serves as a source of information and help on local and national conservation problems.

Furnishes information relative to the value of conservation to many individuals and organizations through correspondence, the press, and lectures.

Pursues a long range development program that insures a permanent and increasingly beneficial service to all local communities.

PEQUOT TRAILS

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No. 4

Spring Field Trips to Begin on Saturday, 4 April, 7:00 a.m.

The spring and fall series of Saturday field trips have become as popular, if not more so, than the weekly Sunday walks here at the Sanctuary. The Saturday trips are held during the four main bird migration months each year and are scheduled to areas of greatest activity as the season progresses. While the trips are basically designed as bird trips, we do spend quite a bit of time working on the botany of the area or seashore life, or whatever else seems to be of current interest.

Following is a detailed description of each of the Saturday trips to come this spring. This will be your only official notice of the trips so please post this schedule in some handy spot. In addition, we will endeavor to announce each trip on Thursday in the New London Day and the Westerly Sun. These notices will be under the Mystic section.

- 4 April, 7:00 a.m.—Barn Island
- 11 April, 7:00 a.m.—Napatree Point
- 18 April, 7:00 a.m.—Harkness Memorial Park, Waterford
- 25 April, 7:00 a.m.—Bluff Point
- 2 May, 7:00 a.m.—Napatree Point
- 9 May, 7:00 a.m.—Home of Frank Eastman, Ledyard
- 16 May, 7:00 a.m.—Lake of Isles Scout Reservation off Route 2
- 23 May, 7:00 a.m.—Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown

4 April, Barn Island, 7:00 a.m.

We will start the spring series of field trips at Barn Island. This is a favorite birding spot of many old time birders in this area. Waterfowl will be the main object of the trip, but in the past, land birding has also been quite rewarding. With a little luck, we may also find a short-eared owl or two.

Local people can meet at the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:45 a.m. or on the Barn Island road at 7:00 a.m. Turn off U.S. No. 1 onto the Greenhaven Road and take the immediate right to Barn Island. The official starting point will be the R.R. crossing on this road.

11 April, Napatree Point, 7:00 a.m.

The trips to Napatree Point, while they involve the most walking, have been the most popular trips over the years. Birding is apparently good on the Point twelve months out of the year. These early trips the last three years have produced brant, willits, plovers, and many of the more common species of shore birds and waterfowl.

Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m. or meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot of Watch Hill Yacht Club. Wear warm clothing as this is apt to be a very cold windy trip.

18 April, Harkness Memorial Park, Waterford, 7:00 a.m.

If a bird couldn't be found, the Harkness trip would still be considered a big success. The park itself, the buildings, the formal gardens, the sandy beach and the great expanse or open area, is reward enough for this trip. However, birds are found and in great numbers. We are going to Harkness early in the season this year in hopes of finding greater number of waterfowl as well as shore birds. To get to the park, follow the park signs off the new Turnpike, or from New London to

PEQUOT TRAILS

Published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, by the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., Mystic, Conn.

A Statement of Purpose:

We want this publication to be of the utmost service to you—to keep you informed concerning activities at the Sanctuary and in your community; to invite your participation in these activities; and to provide you with general articles of education and inspiration regarding conservation subjects. Won't you drop us a line and tell us what you would like to see published? We would appreciate it.

Robert F. Kunz, Editor
Tel. Mystic 536-9777

Great Neck Road, Waterford. We will leave the Sanctuary at 6:30 a.m.

25 April, Bluff Point, 7:00 a.m.

This trip will not be aimed at any particular type of bird life, but just birds in general. The terrain is diversified and birds run the gamut from waterfowl and shore birds, through sparrows and typical woodland birds such as warblers and vireos.

Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:45 a.m. or meet at the Groton Town Hall, Poquonnock Bridge, at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Walter J. Moran will again be special leader for the trip.

2 May, Napatree Point, 7:00 a.m.

This trip to Napatree will be a repetition of the trip of April 11 and the meeting place and time will be the same. It will be interesting to see the change in the bird life in the intervening two weeks.

9 May, The Home of Mr. and Mrs.

Frank Eastman, Shewville Road,
Ledyard, 7:00 a.m.

This will be a bird trip led by Mr. and Mrs. Eastman. In addition, you will have a chance to observe wildlife plantings designed to attract birds. Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m. or meet at the Eastmans at 7:00. To get there, take Iron Street

out of Ledyard Center. Go to the first stop sign, cross directly over this road and take the next road to your right. This will be Shewville Road and the Eastman home will be the first house on your right. Drive in the driveway where you will find ample parking space.

16 May, Lake-of-Isles Scout Reservation, 7:00 a.m.

This area offers, good scenery, good walking and a pleasant diversity. There is wooded terrain, a lake and numerous small wooded islands. It should be a good spot for migrating warblers, thrushes, and other woodland birds. The reservation should also provide some interesting nesting species. If the area proves as productive as it should, other trips will be scheduled there.

Since this is an area difficult to find, we will meet at the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m. The Lake-of-Isles lies due north of Lantern Hill off Route 2, for those who are familiar with this area, and we will park near the Ranger's cabin as we enter the reservation at about 7:00 a.m.

23 May, Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown, 7:00 a.m.

This is the sixth year of our spring trip to Pachaug. The trips are getting better each year as we are discovering more interesting areas to study. The favorite spot to date is an old woods road which goes for a quarter of a mile through a wonderful spruce bog. Pitcher plants and sundews abound as do many other species of bog and swamp plants. An area such as this also has its own special brand of bird life. If you can only make one trip this entire spring, make this it.

This trip will leave the Sanctuary lot at 6:15 a.m. We will also meet again in front of the post office in Voluntown at 7:00 a.m.

"Summit Meeting at Hawk Mountain"



Mr. Kenneth Bates, Mr. William Wylie, former Curator, and Mr. Robert Kunz, present Curator.

Although I have put on a little weight recently and I find my hair line depressing these last few years, this is not Khrushchev and DeGaulle. All other analogies aside, this is a photograph of the former and the incumbent Curator of the P.S.W.S. atop Hawk Mountain where they met during the recent (October 12, 1963) field trip to this very famous wildlife sanctuary. Other Sanctuary members, not shown in the photographs, who made the trip were, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. M. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. M. D. MacGregor.

The species seen by Sanctuary members included the Turkey Vulture 34, Sharp-skinned Hawk 30, Coopers Hawk 20, Broad-winged Hawk 2, Red-shouldered Hawk 4, Red-tailed Hawk 40, Golden Eagle 1, Osprey 1, American Kestrel 20, Peregrine Falcon 2, and the Harrier 1. Within this list, all of the five families of diurnal predaceous birds of North America are represented.

Most of our group were privileged to meet the famous Curator of the



Master David Rusch, Mr. Dom Culotta, Mr. Walter Moran, Mrs. Robert Kunz, Mr. Robert DeWire, Mr. William Wylie, Mrs. Kenneth Bates, an unidentified friend, Master Stephen Rusch and Mr. Kenneth Bates.

Hawk Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, Dr. Maurice Broun. Dr. Broun and his assistant Mr. Alex Nagy showed our group the greatest courtesy and are two additional reasons why I am sure we would like to visit Hawk Mountain again. Unfortunately we did not have the opportunity to discuss with Dr. Broun, the subject of ferns. We have in the last year undertaken construction of a fernery at the P.S.W.S. and I was pleased but humbled to learn that Dr. Broun authored a book on this very subject in 1932, the year I was born, oh well. An amazing man Dr. Broun, while most of us struggled to locate a bird, he was identifying it.

The Hawk Mountain field trip was a thumping success, good weather both days, a beautiful panoramic view, enough hawks and variety to keep us busy most of the time and good company with whom to enjoy all of this. Yes, we plan to go again next fall.

Christmas Bird Count

The annual Christmas Bird Census was held Saturday, December 28 this year, 12:01 a.m. to midnight. This annual count is an attempt to record as many species of birds as possible within a pre-determined area, during a continuous 24-hour period. Not only are the species recorded, but the individuals are counted as well.

The census is taken throughout North America, and throughout the world. The overall object is to determine the change in bird populations due to natural or man-induced causes.

This year 100 species were counted, totaling 17,014 individuals. The species counts were as follows. The Common Loon 8, Red-throated Loon 3, Horned Grebe 125, Pied-billed Grebe 9, Great Cormorant 79, Great Blue Heron 10, Black-crowned Night Heron 7, Mute Swan 85, Canada Goose 314, Mallard 540, Black Duck 689, Pintail 1.

American Widgeon 66, Redhead 3, Canvasback 145, Greater Scaup Duck 1245, Lesser Scaup Duck 10, Common Goldeneye 332, Bufflehead 479, Oldsquaw 11, White-winged Scoter 41, Surf Scoter 26, Common Scoter 5, Hooded Merganser 76, Common Merganser 67.

Red-breasted Merganser 772, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Red-shouldered Hawk 2, Rough-legged Hawk 1, Osprey 1, Merlin 1, Kestrel 7, Ruffed Grouse 3, Bobwhite 21, Ring-necked Pheasant 9, American Coot 1, Black-bellied Plover 5, Ruddy Turnstone 12, Purple Sandpiper 38, Dunlin 2, Great Black-backed Gull 64.

Herring Gull 4715, Ring-billed Gull 13, Laughing Gull 1, Mourning Dove 76, Barred Owl 2, Short-eared Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher 8, Yellow-shafted Flicker 8, Hairy Woodpecker 27, Downy Woodpecker 39, Eastern Phoebe 1, Horned Lark 16, Blue Jay 494, Common Crow 180, Fish Crow 5, Black-capped Chickadee 391, Tufted Titmouse 31, White-breasted Nuthatch 68, Red-breasted Nuthatch 15, Brown Creeper 4.

Winter Wren 1, Carolina Wren 3, Mockingbird 2, Catbird 1, Brown Thrasher 7, Robin 32, Hermit Thrush 1, Eastern Bluebird 14, Golden-crowned

Kinglet 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Cedar Waxwing 6, Loggerhead Shrike 1, Starling 2,435, Black-and-White Warbler 1, Myrtle Warbler 42, House Sparrow 319, Eastern Meadowlark 13, Redwinged Blackbird 1, Rusty Blackbird 28, Common Grackle 270, Brown-headed Cowbird 1,233, Cardinal 52.

Dickcissel 1, Evening Grosbeak 128, Purple Finch 28, Pine Grosbeak 1, Pine Siskin 3, American Goldfinch 40, Red Crossbill 14, Rufous-sided Towhee 21, Savannah Sparrow 1, Slate-colored Junco 393, Tree Sparrow 126, Chipping Sparrow 2, Field Sparrow 48, White-crowned Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 164, Fox Sparrow 39, Song Sparrow 129.

Additional species recorded within the count period, but not on that count day were: Brant, Gadwall, Green Wing Teal, Long-eared Owl, Red-breasted Woodpecker, Red Poll and the Lapland Long-Spur.

Bird Ball

Our special thanks go out to Mr. and Mrs. David L. Winans for their splendid efforts in behalf of the "Bird Ball" again this year. Our thanks goes out also to Mr. M. D. MacGregor whose annual effort in behalf of the Ball is so important.

We wish especially to thank the contributing artists whose work and skill add so much to the success and fame of the "Bird Ball."

Vincent Malcolm
Bud Tucker
Ralph Ruggiero
Walt Ignatowich
Bob MacGillis
Don Pontious
John LaPresle
John Gerbitz
Hank Brezell
Lou Bonamarte
Bob Fitzgerald
Ginny Cleary
Jane Buffum
Chon Day

Ladies and gentlemen we thank you.

It Seems to Me

Every year, at Christmas time, we buy a very special calendar for a very special friend; the name of the friend and the title of the calendar have no bearing here. However, the cost of the calendar does have a bearing, that is, four years ago it was a dollar, then it was a dollar and a quarter, then a dollar and a half and yesterday the cost was a dollar ninety-five. Simple mathematics indicates an advance in cost of ninety-five percent. Bear that in mind, if you intend to read further.

This little item is not written as from an officer of your Sanctuary; it is written as from one five-dollar member to another. I hope its writing will not be considered presumptuous on my part; if it is, then all I can say is that I am deeply sorry.

The 1960 Winter issue of **Pequot Trails** proudly announced the completion of our new Trailside Museum. Those of you who were familiar with the use of the old barn know well the improvement effected by this new building. We were thereby permitted to have the Sanctuary open for the enjoyment of members and others twelve months in the year, instead of only during the milder seasons. I am sure all users of the Sanctuary facilities appreciate this improvement. But, unfortunately, the new building and its extended period of operation, has materially increased our operating costs. Was it not worth it?

After the new museum, we constructed the new home for our Curator, who previously had to live in the old Denison House. With all due respect to that lovely old antique, it does leave some thing to be desired as a winter abode. The new house, although it again runs up our operating costs, does make our little deal more attractive to a young Curator and thus permits us to pick and choose among a greater number of applicants. I think we have done very well here.

So, here we have a Sanctuary replete with great possibilities for services to its members and to the community, but I fear we cannot realize on these possibilities because of limited funds. Our maintenance costs have increased,

I understand, to the point where little is left for many other important items. This situation will, of course, become more difficult as time goes on and, in my humble opinion, the time has now come for the consideration of a revision in the annual dues. This, I know, is a painful subject, but there you have it!

I do not feel that a revision in dues is out of line in any way. I do feel that your Sanctuary deserves your help. I should be very happy to hear from anyone who might be sufficiently interested in this matter to write to me and let me have any comments or suggestions that may come to mind.

W. D. I. Domer

Sunday Morning Walks

After quite some census taking and due deliberation we have decided to offer the Sanctuary Sunday Bird Walks in the mornings throughout the year as opposed to the winter afternoon shift in schedule previously followed. For your future reference then, the Sunday morning walks will take place every Sunday of the coming year (unless otherwise noted and weather permitting) at 8 a.m. from January 5 to and including March 15 and at 7 a.m. from March 22 to and including November 15; and at 8 a.m. once again from November 22 to and including December 27. Unless otherwise noted we will always meet at the Sanctuary Museum Building for the Sunday walks.

Many of these Sunday walks will take place on the Sanctuary Mystic property, some will take place on the Sanctuary North Stonington property, and several will take place at nearby coastal areas, particularly during the winter months.

* * *

This is how Galliano Chellini of Florence, Italy, says he got all those scratches and bruises: He was hunting when an eagle dropped near his door. Chellini wounded the eagle and it attacked him with its talons. It took four more shots from his rifle to finish the eagle. What did he expect?

1 Plus 1 Equals 2

One plus one does indeed equal two. The P.S.W.S. has, as I am sure you will all be pleased to note, increased its membership from 607 to 720 in the last calendar year, a net growth of 113 or 18%. Our actual gross increase in new members was 145 but we lost 32 through normal attrition, resulting in a net increase of 113 as stated above. These figures represent a greater growth by far than enjoyed in any comparable period since the Sanctuary's inception as a member organization in 1946 when 211 founding members and 111 charter members were pledged during the course of that first year. As a matter of fact, if the P.S.W.S. had enjoyed an 18% membership increase annually since 1946 we would be over 4,000 strong today. This membership growth did not "just happen" either in 1946 or in 1963. Several people, I wish I could say many, have worked diligently to provide the Sanctuary with its most recent and impressive membership growth. This brings me back to the 1 plus 1 equals 2 business. Although mathematics is not my forte I begin to salivate when I compute what you members could do to our record increase of the last year and our pride in it. If, in lieu of just a few of us working at building the membership, we all devoted enough energy to secure one new member; well 720 plus 720 equals 1440. Please, make us humble!

Why is an increased and increasing membership so important? At least two pertinent areas are basic controls on our success as a Wildlife Sanctuary. The first, the amount of exposure and action our cause, conservation, receives as a result of our existence. The second, and they are interrelated, the amount of dollars we have available to pursue this exposure and action. Both of these areas are well served by an increasing membership. An enlarging membership gives us an immediate and direct increase in exposure, for the cause of conservation, to the new members and through the new members. An enlarging membership also delivers a direct increase to Sanctuary income and a more stable and finan-

cially able platform from which to expound our cause. In summation then, increasing membership will give us—you a stronger voice in the thrust of the conservation movement, and will ensure for this Sanctuary its rightful place as a truly important force in the Connecticut Conservation movement.

P.S. If you find lack of time or opportunity a difficulty, please send me a name and address **now** or when you receive your own membership renewal blank. There will of course be no personal reference made, unless you request it.

Season in the Sun

The slanting sun now reaches down to the humble ancients on the woodland's floor, the club mosses, venerable ancestors of all the trees that tower above them today. Some call them running pine and ground cedar, and they look like miniature evergreens, seldom as much as a foot in height. Long strands of them will soon be gathered among the Christmas greens.

They date back perhaps 300 million years, to the Paleozoic era when they were huge trees in the fern forests that laid down today's coal beds. In our area there are about a dozen species of them now, all miniatures, mere whispers from the remote past. But they persist, still clinging to the ancient way of reproduction, by spores instead of seeds. Those spores, almost microscopic, form the lycopodium powder of medicine and industry.

How they lost their status as trees is a mystery, and why they persist is not really understood. Evolution seems to have passed them by, though it created from their kind not only the pines and hemlocks and all today's evergreen conifers but even the oak and the maple and the white-barked birch. They were here, in some form, before the first violet evolved. And here they still are, older than the hills themselves. Perhaps they prove that nothing worthy is ever lost, that even beginnings are not forgotten. In any case, they come now to their own season in the sun, the thin, distant winter sun.

My First Four Months of Birding

by David A. Rusch

I have always been interested in nature—from the much maligned snake to the wartiest of toads. But my interest in birds will have to be attributed to the arrival of the new Curator of the P.S.W.S.

I started birding on a warm sunny September day with many of the Autumn flowers already in bloom. On that pleasant Sunday morning we sighted many interesting species of birds. Two of them were the Blue-winged Warbler and the Yellow Warbler. These birds impressed me very much because, although they were so petite they seemed to be an exceptionally sturdy type of bird.

From then on I attended most of the week end bird walks, going to such places as Bluff Point, Napatree Point, Latimer Point, Hawk Mountain, Barn Island, Mason's Island, Great Island, and of course the Sanctuary.

Recently my brother and I installed a number of feeders at our home. On the average about eighteen species of

birds visit our feeder daily. The greatest number of species in one day was twenty-five and that was recorded on December 23rd. The birds we have seen at or flying over our feeders are as follows: Mallard Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bob-white, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Cardinal, American Gold Finch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

On November 26th through December 1st and on various other days we were host to a small but rather friendly Red-breasted Nuthatch. This bird stayed about a week and left for a few days only to return a short while later, not only able but quite willing to help demolish our supply of seed.

P.S.W.S. Lecture Series

The Sanctuary is presenting, we hope you already know, a lecture series on Nature subjects again this year. The lectures are given on the third Wednesdays of October, November, January, February, March and April at 8:30 p.m.

Lectures already given this year include: October—"Falconry, the Sport of Kings, Past, Present and Future." (live specimens) Curator. November—"Winter Birds" a motion picture narrated by the author, Mr. Robert De-wire. January—"Mountain Climbing in the Tetons." Slides narrated by the author, Mr. Laurence Anderson.

The lectures for February 19, March 18, and April 15 will be announced in your local newspaper. Please come and join us for a relaxed and informative evening. Members are invited to bring one non-member guest free of admission. Other non-members will be charged a nominal \$5.00.

Yellowstone Bear Wired for Sound

Yellowstone National Park, Mont.—(AP)—That grizzly bear staggering around isn't really drunk, a professor said today. Actually, he's wired for sound.

If this sounds confusing, let Dr. John Craighead of Montana explain.

He and others at Montana State University have started a research program in order to understand better the rare species of grizzlies.

The plan calls for tranquilizing the bears with drugged darts, measuring the beasts and then hanging a two-pound transmitter pack around their necks for tracking purposes.

If all goes well, the bear wearing the transmitter pack will then be tranquilized again. His physiological characteristics will be compared with those taken before he was selected for the experiment.

Please . . .

LOOK HERE. -

All of our members have, no doubt, at one time or another noticed the above plea for their continued support via their estate. It is concise, sincere, and I believe, very well composed. (No, I did not write it.) I would like however to add two thoughts to the paragraph above. The first is that on no account do we wish anyone to expire. (One dedicated, live conservationist is worth a great deal more to us than his or her money.) The second thought is this. If you should entertain ideas of continued support of the P.S.W.S., I believe that now, rather than later, is the time to make your contribution. Why? The next 25 years are well recognized as the critical ones for conservation and conservationists. During this period much of all that may be accomplished towards land and water preservation (and their flora and fauna) must be accomplished. We must preserve while there is still something to be preserved. During this same 25 years the population of this country

The future of your Sanctuary depends on you. Its dedication and service to Conservation becomes more important with each passing year and must continue after you are gone. You can achieve a kind of immortality for it and for yourself if you will remember us in your will. Make yours a more than passing interest.

will increase by 4 million or more per annum. If a significant portion of these children and our present youths can be educated in conservation either within the school systems or as in the case of this community, at a community wildlife sanctuary, then all past efforts will not have been in vain. They will hold the line!

We must then, accomplish two basics in the next 25 years. We must aid and abet organizations (private and state) and ourselves pursue the preservation of land and water resources for the purposes of conservation and, we must educate our youth in the ways of conservation, that, what is secure and what will be secured will remain so always.

Thank you for your attention.

Harry C. Oberholser, 93, Expert on Bird Migration

Cleveland (AP) A funeral service was held for Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, 93, one of the first scientists to make detailed studies of migration habits and distribution of North American birds. He died at Lakeside Hospital.

Considered one of the world's outstanding ornithologists, he was curator of ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History from 1941-47.

A native of Brooklyn, N. Y., Dr. Oberholser joined the U. S. division of economic ornithology and mammalogy in 1895. It later became known as the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S.

Department of the Interior. He remained with the department 43 years.

Dr. Oberholser's studies provided the wildlife service with information on the migration routes, nesting places and the degree by which certain species increased and decreased.

His work resulted in the naming of 11 new families and subfamilies, 99 genera and subgenera and 560 species and subspecies from many parts of the world. Some of the birds were named in his honor.

After his retirement from government service in 1941, he was put in charge of the Department of the Smithsonian Institution.

Barn Island

You will all recall the article entitled "Resolution on Barn Island Marshes" which appeared in your last issue of **Pegot Trails**. The following resolution adapted recently by the Connecticut Chapter of Nature Conservancy is a follow-on resolution of a more definitive and complete nature. I wholeheartedly believe that the cause of conservation (pertinent to the BI area) is well served by these resolutions and I believe our membership will endorse them without reservation.

You will I am sure be pleased to read the text of a letter proposed by the Curator and endorsed by the Board of Trustees of the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary on the following page. This letter concerns itself with Barn Island and has been directed to the Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game and to other appropriate agencies and officials of the State of Connecticut.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING NATURAL AREAS AT THE BARN ISLAND MARSHES

WHEREAS Natural Areas form an integral part of all land management programs, including game management areas.

WHEREAS Natural Areas form the basis for comparisons, checks, standards and controls for comparable areas adjacent and in the immediate vicinity which have been or can be altered, changed or managed, by such means as construction of impoundments or pot-holes,

WHEREAS Natural Areas serve as areas for needed basic observation-type recorded research by governmental agencies, by universities and citizen organizations, and

WHEREAS Natural Areas can also serve for limited wilderness recreation, including hunting and wildlife observation, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game be requested to set aside the following parts of the Barn Island Marsh Area as permanent Natural Areas, with no management practices upon them:

- A. Headquarters Front Marsh, in front of Headquarters Island;
- B. The Upland Islands, south of Impoundments 2, 3, 4;
- C. The entire Barn Island peninsula complex of marshes and islands;
- D. The entire Brucker Marsh and Front Marsh south of it.

In support of this Resolution, the following items should be considered:

1. Natural Areas for comparison with managed areas are indispensable in any ecologically sound management program.

2. The reservation of Headquarters Front Marsh together with its sand dune would be easily available to the public, and provide a living museum of natural marsh conditions. The land is highly sensitive to mass use and its native vegetation would be quickly destroyed by mass recreation, as a recent study by Dr. Egler and Dr. Niering unequivocally proves.

3. The high islands are desirable areas for study of salt spray and hurricane effects on upland vegetation.

4. The included Bay Front Marshes would provide sites for studies of natural shore processes on such marshes, which studies are of great importance to engineers and oceanographers.

5. The Brucker Marsh, as is, is superbly suited in many respects for preservation, observation and study, especially when backed to the north by land to be acquired with Whyte Report money, which money is in the interests of the total public, not just the sportsmen.

A. It is a standard and comparison for the four other impoundments, without which the values of these four cannot be judged.

B. It is ideal for productivity studies, involving flowage of nutrients into the bay, of interest to the shellfish industry.

C. Its upper end is in cattail swamps, and beyond that in killed red maple swamp. It is a superb opportunity for study of rising sea level effects, involving the gradual spread of tidal marsh on to the land.

D. It allows an unexcelled opportunity for study of the effects of mosquito ditching on a marsh (since the

ditches are regularly spaced at right angles to the stream), and the gradual "recovery" from that ditching involving the redistribution and redevelopment of Ruppia pools (the destruction of which, by the wholesale ditching of the '30s, destroyed wildlife values that involved loss of hunter interest).

6. This use of the state lands is wholly in the public interest, and represents the soundest use of these tracts both for the total Barn Island area, and for the state, for sound and reliable game management purposes.

7. Continuing the existing policy of allowing hunting will cause only minor ecological change, especially to the botanical and marine communities and

to discontinue hunting would not be in keeping with past commitments and understandings.

8. Unless some areas are kept from mass recreation, hunting and scientific areas will be entirely lost. The Barn Island complex can be suitably regulated to combine the needs of the sportsman hunter, the needs of the scientific community and the needs of the wildlife observers. To a large extent these interests must recall the motto of our forefathers, "United we stand, divided we fall." A multi-purpose limited use policy is feasible and desirable for the Barn Island complex and designation of Natural Areas is a sound step in that direction.

P.S.W.S. BARN ISLAND LETTER

Gentlemen:

This letter pertains generally to the interest of the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary in furthering cooperation between the various agencies and organizations of conservation in Connecticut and specifically to the application of this cooperation, at this time, to the Barn Island Marsh Area.

We feel it is of fundamental importance for every segment of the conservation community, hunters, fishermen, botanists, zoologists and naturalists to retain and actively maintain their interests in any specific conservation area. This is important because it is certain that future years will bring added and increasing pressures for non-conservation use of areas like the Barn Island Marshes. We need now, and will need even more in the future, the active cooperation of all conservationists, if we are to preserve areas like the Barn Island Marshes for conservation recreation and study.

An important new step in accomplishing this aim would be the designation of the Barn Island Marshes as a Natural Area. This step would assure the continued interest of all conservationists in the Barn Island area, and would thereby strengthen its status as a conservation area now and in the future.

We recommend that the Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game set aside the entire Barn Island complex of marshes and islands as a permanent Natural Area. We recommend particularly that the Brucker Marsh be retained in its present state, without impoundment.

We feel that these recommendations are in the best interests of all concerned conservationists.

Signed by the Secretary

Brotherhood of Conservationists

By Robert F. Kunz

It is terribly easy to get ten different definitions of the word conservation from nine conservationists. The word means many things to many people and to some unfortunately it means nothing or worse than nothing. It is to those individuals and organizations to whom "Conservation" does have definite meanings, however diverse, that we now turn our attention.

During the next session of the 88th Congress the Sportsman Conservationists are in for what will probably be their most difficult fight to date to retain their constitutional right "to keep and bear arms." Without plunging into a full scale discussion of this problem, several elements appear quite evident. Arms control has been and should remain basically a right of the States.—The most stringent of gun laws, New York's Sullivan Law, has been a failure not only in keeping guns from the criminal, but in reducing the crime rate.—An integral part of the proposed gun laws bills, is a requirement either for registration, or for restrictions that will amount to an absolute veto power in the hands of law enforcement agencies over local and mail order gun purchases. If we have learned anything from New York's Sullivan Law, restrictions of this type will not be effective in keeping weapons out of the hands of the criminal element or the insane. They will, however, penalize the Sportsman Conservationist and destroy the right of the American citizen to bear arms without government interference. The gun law bills, as presently proposed do in fact represent the initial steps toward federal control of arms and infringement upon a constitutional American right. Surely there are other measures to be taken that will in effect control the sick without legislating against the law-abiding Sportsman.

Spokesmen for the National Rifle Association and The National Wildlife Federation have expressed doubt that any gun laws short of complete disarmament of the citizenry will prevent murder by gun. They expressed categorical opposition to any legislation that would in effect disarm the citizenry or otherwise perpetuate an infringement upon the right of the citizenry to "keep and bear arms." They suggest instead

a get tough attitude in legislation to control that element of our society who have demonstrated their evil intent.

I would suggest that we see, the "Brotherhood of Conservationists" at work, in the opinions of these two organizations. Here we have two national organizations whose immediate areas of interest and concentration are not the same but whose existence is and has to be dedicated to an identical final goal—Protection and preservation of our natural resources, **the right and privilege of using them** and the obligation of passing them on intact. It is toward this end that all worthy conservation organizations must be dedicated and it will be by a greater and increasing recognition of this fundamental and identical goal that the diverse factions of the Conservation movement may be brought into a "Brotherhood." When this important task has been accomplished, the strength and stride of the conservation movement will at last reach its potential.

What can we, the conservationists of Connecticut, do as members of Local Sanctuaries, Sportsman's Clubs, Nature Centers, Garden Clubs, Gun Clubs, Outing Clubs, and as members of the National Conservation organizations, what can we do to hasten this "Brotherhood," this rapport which holds such great potential for benefit of all Conservationists? We can co-operate, we can strive to understand the other fellow's area of special concentration, and above all we can remember (and aid and abet) that in the final analysis we are all committed to the same goal, without which **none** will be able to pursue the pleasure of his particular interest.

Within the State of Connecticut at the present time, there are many conservation situations at issue on both local and state levels and there will cer-

tainly be many more arising in the future. There is without a doubt ample opportunity for all Connecticut Conservationists as individuals and as organizations to do their part in establishing active co-operation. The opponents of conservation are formidable and demanding. The demands and pressures upon our remaining natural resources will continue to increase. **Only** by virtue of **active** mutual support and co-operation can we attain and maintain our goal.

TEA and SALE

The P.S.W.S. Tea and Sale was a success again this year.

Special thanks are due the co-chairmen of this year's Tea and Sale, Mrs. George L. Wrenn, 2nd and Mrs. Robert W. Dixon. Our special thanks go also to Mrs. George H. Rusch, who directed the food sale, new this year, and to Mrs. Robert Laffargue and Mrs. Ringlin Gilman who assisted her. The ladies and gentlemen who by their generous contributions made the food sale a success deserve and now have our heartfelt thanks.

We wish especially to thank the following ladies who by virtue of their work in the work shop and or on the day of the Tea and Sale were so instrumental to our success.

Mrs. Raphael Avellar
Mrs. Thomas Bradford
Mrs. Edward Breed
Mrs. Dana Burnett
Mrs. Rudolf DeWardener
Mrs. Wilson D. I. Domer
Mrs. William Downes
Mrs. Alfred Gildersleeve
Mrs. Richard Harrington
Mrs. Joseph Harris
Mrs. Harrison Jewett
Mrs. George Ketcham
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Miss Louise Page
Mrs. R. J. Ramsbottom
Mrs. Earl Smith
Mrs. Russell van Der Steeg
Miss Rita Vail
Mrs. John Wheeler
Mrs. William White
Mrs. Randolph Wibberley

Trading Post

Things in Season

1. **A Cardinal on Snow-Binoculars and Scopes.** The Trading Post is now a dealer for Swift Instruments Incorporated—An additional discount will be allowed members on these fine pieces of optical equipment.

2. **A Crackling Fireplace, Relaxation—** Fine Nature Books, Reference and anthologies, the entire Peterson Field Guide series, Audubon Land and Water Bird Guides, Golden Nature Guides, three excellent anthologies and one of the best and most entertaining of Cook Books, "Stalking the Wild Asparagus."—We will order other Natural History volumes for you.

3. **Winter Birds—** Bird Seed and Feeders. One of the most effective ways to observe winter birds and certainly the most comfortable is at a feeding station in your yard. Materials needed, quality bird seed (Sunflower and mixed), and a sturdy feeder. One guess where you can get these materials.

Coming Season

1. **Spring Migration —** Bird Houses, Bird Baths. Please come in and check our several catalogs with us. Place your order now when we can offer a wide selection and have it for you when you want it.
2. **Insects and Vegetation—** Hand and Desk Magnifiers, Swift Instruments Incorporated and others.

Always in Season

1. A 10% member discount on purchases of \$3.00 or more.

Look at it this Way

If in the course of one year you purchase \$25.00 worth of goods—you support the PSWS to the tune of at least 2 additional regular memberships per year. Multiply your individual support times our present local membership and you will get an idea of the good things your support of the Trading Post can bring about for the Sanctuary.

LOOK AGAIN

If as outlined above, you do purchase in the amount of \$25.00 and yours is a regular \$5.00 membership, you have automatically reduced the cost of your membership by 50%. How?

LOOK AGAIN

Tr-AID-ing POST

AID

All members get 10% discount* on all purchases over \$3.00.

AID

PSWS gets financial support.

If we don't have what you want—maybe we should. Send us a smoke signal, and if possible, we will get it for you.

* Discount will apply at all times as indicated **excepting** PSWS Tea and Sale.

Trumpeter Swan Is Having a Population Explosion

Washington—(AP)—The trumpeter swan, once thought extinct, is having a population boom, the Department of the Interior reported yesterday.

The swan, the largest waterfowl on the North American continent, was thought extinct in the late 20's. But government biologists searching for the rare birds in 1932 found 57 adults and 12 young birds.

These birds were counted in the Red Rock Lakes-Yellowstone region, which reaches into Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.

This year more than 800 of the Trumpeters have been counted in the United States south of Alaska, including a record number of young, which are known as cygnets.

The young exceeded 300. By contrast, as recently as 1945 the total count of adults and young was 235.

In addition, Fish and Wildlife Service biologists say Alaska may have several hundred. They found 22 trumpeter nests on the Kenai National Moose Range during the summer, with 69 young swans being counted at the end of August.

Herbicides Held Aid to Gardening

Creating New Landscapes with Herbicides, the new Connecticut Arboretum Bulletin, now available at the Connecticut College Book Shop, is the first to be published on the herbicidal approach to naturalistic landscaping.

It offers to homeowners a guide, in layman's language, to easy and economical elimination of unwanted trees and vegetation through the use of chemicals.

Authored by William A. Niering, associate professor of botany, and Richard H. Goodwin, professor of botany and director of the arboretum, both at Connecticut College, the illustrated booklet deals with techniques on landscaping and maintaining undeveloped land, improving wildlife habitat, managing the woodlot and weeding the lawn. Precautionary measures, as well as limitations, are emphasized.

Shark Stays Cool

From The Patriot Wire Services

Washington — Navy scientists have obtained the first full record ever taken of a shark's heartbeat—and the record indicates he's a pretty cool customer besides being a dangerous antagonist.

The record, the first ever from a free-swimming marine animal, was obtained by Dr. Perry Gilbert of Cornell University, working under a Navy contract at a marine laboratory in the Bahamas.

Gilbert anesthetized a 40-inch lemon shark and attached an electrocardiogram close to its heart before releasing it into a concrete pool.

A Pentagon report on the experiment said that the shark's heartbeat ran from 30 to 65 beats per minute as the temperature of the water in the pool was varied.

But the heartbeat did not change significantly when efforts were made to frighten or disturb it by tapping on the side of the pool, waving a ham, splashing water in its face, or placing a dye in the pool to darken the water.

The Navy is especially interested in studying the reaction of sharks to chemical repellent and other possible control factors.

Friendly Deer Foils Hunters

Wenatchee, Wash. (AP) — Imagine stalking through the woods, your rifle ready, your eyes peeled, your ears twitching for the slightest sound—and having a deer walk right up and nuzzle your trouser leg?

That's exactly what happened to Robert Conner of Wenatchee and his sons, Bob Jr. and John.

"We could hardly believe our eyes," said Conner. "We all had guns but he

wasn't afraid. He walked up and started nibbling at Bob's trousers!"

They fed the little deer some salt and candy. Then they couldn't get rid of him. Rather than let him fall prey to hunters, the Connors decided to bring him home until the hunting season closed.

Getting the deer into their car was no problem.

"It just climbed in after me," said Bob Jr. **Patriot—Jan. 4, 1964**

Organizational Memberships

The P.S.W.S. is very fortunate to count among its members the following organizations:

The Lyme Garden Club, Lyme, Conn., RDF Old Lyme

The Mystic Garden Club, Mystic, Conn.

The Naval Officers Wives Garden Club, Pequot Hill Road, Mystic, Conn.

The New London Garden Club, Quaker Hill, Conn.

The North Stonington Garden Club, North Stonington, Conn.

The Oswegatchie Garden Club, Waterford, Conn.

The Rake and Trowel Garden Club, Groton, Conn.

The Spring Glen Garden Club, Hamden, Conn.

The Stonington Garden Club, Stonington, Conn.

The Thames River Garden Club, New London, Conn.

The Gardeners, Westerly, R. I.

The East Lyme Garden Club, Niantic, Conn.

The Garden Club of Deep River, Deep River, Conn.

The Garden Club of East Haven, East Haven, Conn.

The Garden Club of Hartford, Hartford, Conn.

The Groton Garden Club, Groton, Conn.

The Little Garden Club, West Hartford, Conn.

The Pequot Council, Boy Scouts of America, New London, Conn.

Barstows Village Market, Mystic, Conn.

Bindloss, Inc., 72 Water St., Stonington, Conn.

Brustolon Buick-Pontiac Inc., 2 Greenmanville Ave., Mystic, Conn.

Cottrell Lumber Co., Mystic, Conn.

Faith Trumbull Chapter, D.A.R., Inc., Norwich, Conn.

Gallup Lumber Co., Plainfield, Conn.

Groton Pet Center, Groton, Conn.

Kellems Co., Inc., Stonington, Conn.

New London Council, Girl Scouts, Inc.

Packers Tar Soap, Inc., P. O. Box 322, Mystic, Conn.

Sheffield Tube Corporation, New London, Conn.

Stonington Community Center, 20 Cutler St., Stonington, Conn.

Stonington Publishing Co., Inc., Stonington, Conn.

Standard Sheet Metal Works, Old Mystic, Conn.

Kilmer Oak Loses Fight

New Brunswick, N. J. (AP)—The famed Kilmer Oak, bare and rain-soaked under a steel gray sky, was gently cut down yesterday, amid praise of its inspirational qualities as a symbol of nature.

And it was found to be more than 100 years younger than had been believed, succumbing age 160 instead of 275.

Workmen sawed each twisted bough separately and lowered most to the ground with ropes. They paused for a half-hour ceremony eulogizing the old

tree and the poet Joyce Kilmer, believed to have been inspired by it.

When the day-long process was over, a massive stump, 54 inches thick and three feet high, was left. A plaque will be mounted on it in memory of Kilmer and his 12-line poem, "Trees."

The white oak died of old age despite long efforts to save it by agriculturists at Rutgers University, which owns the land on which it stood.

A 10-foot high crevice in the trunk, made when concrete was poured into it, testified to an early effort to prolong the tree's life.

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YOU AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Members, now totaling over 700, reside in eighteen states and the District of Columbia.

Membership is open to everyone. The present membership includes both amateurs and professionals in natural history subjects and many who recognize the Sanctuary's educational influence in community life.

Five members are elected to the Board of Trustees annually to serve for terms of four years each. The Officers of the Sanctuary are elected annually by the Board of Trustees.

BECOME A MEMBER OR GIVE NOW! On the bottom of this page you will find a form for your membership application or contribution. All memberships include a subscription to our quarterly bulletin, *Pequot Trails*, and have the privilege of participation in all scheduled events.

TAKE AN ACTIVE PART! Opportunities will be offered for participation in field trips, Sanctuary visits, committee work and many other activities.

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY to affiliate now with an organization actively engaged in the promotion of a worthy community program of conservation education and recreation.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary
Mystic, Connecticut*

Date

Please enroll me as a member of the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary for the year ending I enclose payment for the class of membership checked below.

() *Regular:* \$5.00 annually

() *Family:* \$15.00 annually

() *Patron:* \$50.00 annually

() *Sustaining:* \$25.00 annually

() *Contributing:* \$10.00 annually

() *Life:* \$300.00

Organizations are eligible for Patron, Contributing or Sustaining Memberships only.

Signed

M.....

[PLEASE SPECIFY WHETHER MR., MRS., OR MISS]

Permanent Mailing Address

Please make checks payable to "P.S.W.S., INC." and mail to The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Mystic, Connecticut

Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Mystic, Connecticut

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